

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A dispenser comprising:
  - a casing having an interior portion formed by a casing wall;
  - an inlet and an outlet; and
  - a dispenser carousel disposed in the interior portion of the casing and interposed in a flow path between the inlet and the outlet and the dispenser carousel being rotatably by a motor assembly coupled to the dispenser carousel and operable to rotate the dispenser carousel about a rotation axis to feed material along the flow path between the inlet and the outlet and having a cone shaped portion having a length extending along the rotation axis and a radially expanding diameter.
2. The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the casing is cylindrically shaped.
3. The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the cone shaped portion of the dispenser carousel includes a plurality of longitudinally extending ribs to promote material flow.
4. The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the dispenser includes a plurality of blades interfacing with the dispenser carousel to discharge material.

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5. The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the dispenser carousel includes a base flange extending outwardly from the cone shaped portion and the dispenser including a plurality of blades supported to interface with the base flange to discharge material.

6. The dispenser of claim 5 wherein the plurality of blades are integrally formed on an inner surface of the casing.

7. The dispenser of claim 5 wherein the base flange is generally traverse to the rotation axis of the dispenser carousel and the plurality of blades interface with the base flange to discharge material.

8. The dispenser of claim 7 wherein the plurality of blades include angled interfacing surfaces to discharge the material from the base flange of the rotating dispenser carousel.

9. The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the casing includes a flanged platform to removably support a material container.

10. The dispenser of claim 1 where the casing includes a flanged platform and further comprising a container having an opened flanged end and a slide closure slideable between the flanged platform and the

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opened flanged end of the container to open and close the container.

11. The dispenser of claim 10 wherein the container includes a closed end spaced from the opened flanged end and the container tapers outwardly from the closed end to the opened flanged end.

12. The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the dispenser carousel includes a hollow interior portion including a motor socket and a shaft of the motor assembly is insertable therein to rotate the dispenser carousel about the rotation axis.

13. The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the casing is supported in a refrigerated cabinet and the dispenser carousel and the motor assembly are disposed therein.

14. The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the casing includes a flanged platform and the dispenser includes a cabinet and the flanged platform of the casing is slidably mounted on brackets in the cabinet.

15. The dispenser of claim 1 wherein the outlet includes a tapered discharge cone.

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16. A dispenser comprising:  
a casing having an interior portion formed  
by a casing wall;  
an inlet and an outlet;  
a dispenser carousel disposed in the  
interior portion of the casing and  
interposed in a flow path between the  
inlet and the outlet;  
a motor assembly operable to rotate the  
dispenser carousel in a clockwise and a  
counterclockwise direction; and  
a dispense controller programmed to operate  
the motor assembly in response to a  
dispense command and the controller is  
programmed to intermittently operate  
the motor assembly in the clockwise  
direction and the counterclockwise  
direction in response to sequential  
dispense commands.
17. The dispenser of claim 16 wherein the  
dispense controller operates the motor assembly to  
dispense a metered quantity of material.
18. The dispenser of claim 17 and comprising a  
scale providing feedback to the dispense controller to  
control operation of the motor assembly to dispense the  
metered quantity of material.

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19. The dispenser of claim 17 and further comprising a user interface having a plurality of control inputs corresponding to a plurality of metered dispense quantities.

20. The dispenser of claim 17 including user programmable dispense parameters.

21. The dispenser of claim 16 wherein the dispenser carousel includes a plurality of spaced ribs to promote material flow.

22. The dispenser of claim 18 wherein the scale comprises:

a base;

a tray floatably coupled to the base by a plurality of cantilevered beams extending between the base and the floating tray; and

a sensor coupled to the base and the tray to measure displacement of the tray relative to the base.

23. A method for dispensing material comprising steps of:

rotating a dispenser carousel in a first direction for a first period to dispense material during a first dispense cycle; and

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rotating the dispenser carousel in a second direction for a second period to dispense material during a second dispense cycle.

24. The method of claim 23 and comprising steps of:

loading a material container on a platform;  
and  
slidably removing a cover of the container prior to rotating the dispenser carousel to dispense material from the container.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein the step of loading the container comprises:

sliding a flanged end of the container through a slot on the platform and aligning raised edges of the flanged end to abut raised edge portions of the platform.

26. A method for dispensing material comprising steps of:

slidably loading a container on a platform having raised edge portions;  
slidably removing a cover of the container;  
and  
rotating a dispenser carousel to dispense material.

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27. The method of claim 26 and further comprising the steps of:
- sliding the cover to close the container;
  - and
  - unloading the container from the platform.
28. A scale comprising:
- a base;
  - a tray floatably coupled to the base by a plurality of cantilevered beams extending between the base and the floating tray; and
  - a sensor coupled to the base and the tray to measure displacement of the tray relative to the base.
29. The scale of claim 28 wherein the sensor is a magnetic distance sensor.
30. The scale of claim 28 wherein the plurality of cantilevered beams includes at least one pair of stacked beams.
31. The scale of claim 28 wherein the base includes a centered base portion and the plurality of cantilevered beams includes a plurality of pairs of stacked beams including a first pair of stacked beams

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extending in a first direction and a second pair of stacked beams extending in a second direction.

32. The scale of claim 30 wherein the stacked beams are parallel.

33. The scale of claim 28 and including a housing having a housing base and the plurality of cantilevered beams are coupled to the tray via at least one leg and the at least one leg contacts the housing base to provide an overload stop.

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